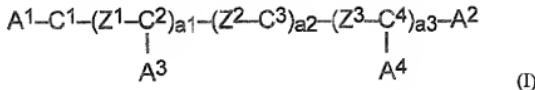


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A mesogenic, cross-linkable mixture comprising:
 - i) a cross-linkable liquid crystalline host comprising at least one cross-linkable liquid crystalline compound, and
 - ii) at least one chiral or achiral rod shaped additive component, wherein said additive component has a rigid core and comprises at least two fused or linked, optionally substituted, non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, and also comprises at least one optionally substituted alkyl residue, and at least one polymerizable group and wherein the additive component has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 40 °C or lower.
2. (original): A mixture according to claim 1, wherein the additive component has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 20 °C or lower.
3. (original): A mixture according to claim 1, wherein the additive component has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 0 °C or lower.
4. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 having a clearing temperature of 30 °C or higher.
5. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 having a clearing temperature of 50 °C or higher.
6. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the liquid crystalline host has a clearing temperature of 50 °C or higher.
7. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the additive component is a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

A^1 to A^4 are independently from each other hydrogen, a polar group such as nitro, cyano, a halogen, an optionally substituted methyl group, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group of 2 to 40 C-atoms, in which one or more C-atoms may be replaced by a heteroatom, in such a way that oxygen atoms are not linked to one another,

with the proviso that at least one of A^1 to A^4 comprises a polymerizable group,

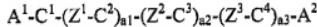
C^1 to C^4 are independently from each other optionally substituted non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, preferably connected to each other at the opposite positions via the bridging groups Z^1 to Z^3 ,

Z^1 to Z^3 are independently from each other - $CH(OH)$ -, - CO -, - $CH_2(CO)$ -, - SO -, - $CH_2(SO)$ -, - SO_2 -, - $CH_2(SO_2)$ -, - COO -, - OCO -, - CO CF_2 -, - CF_2CO -, - $S-CO$ -, - $CO-S$ -, - SOO -, - OSO -, - SOS -, - CH_2-CH_2 -, - OCH_2 -, - CH_2O -, - $CH=C$ H-, - $C\equiv C$ -, - $CH=CH-COO$ -, - $OCO-CH=CH$ -, - $CH=N$ -, - $C(CH_3)=N$ -, - $N=N$ - or a single covalent bond,

a_1 , a_2 and a_3 are independently from each other integers from 0 to 3, such that

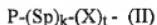
$$1 \leq a_1 + a_2 + a_3 \leq 3,$$

with the proviso that the sequence:



describes the long molecular axis of the rod shaped additive components.

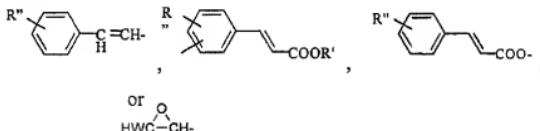
8. (original): A mixture according to claim 7, wherein the additive component is a compound of formula (I), wherein at least one of A^1 to A^4 includes a polymerizable group, selected from a residue of formula (II):



wherein:

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P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group selected from groups comprising $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{Ph})\text{-COO-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-COO-Ph-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-CO-NH-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{Ph})\text{-CONH-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{COOR}')\text{-CH}_2\text{-COO-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-OOC-}$, $(\text{Ph})\text{-CH=CH-}$, $\text{CH}_3\text{-CH=N-}(\text{CH}_2)_{\text{m}1}\text{-}$, HO- , HS- , $\text{HO-(CH}_2)_{\text{m}1}\text{-}$, $\text{HS-(CH}_2)_{\text{m}1}\text{-}$, $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2)_{\text{m}1}\text{COO-}$, $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_{\text{m}1}\text{COO-}$, HWN- , HOC(O)- , $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-Ph-(O)m2}$,



wherein:

W is H, F, Cl, Br or I or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

$\text{m}1$ is an integer having a value of from 1 to 9,

$\text{m}2$ is an integer having a value of 0 or 1,

R' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

R'' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-30} alkylene group, in which one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups may be replaced by a heteroatom and/or by a polar group and/or it is optionally possible that one or more carbon-carbon single bond(s) is/are replaced by a carbon-carbon double or a triple bond,

k is an integer having a value of from 0 to 4,

X is $-\text{O-}$, $-\text{S-}$, $-\text{NH-}$, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{-}$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{-}$, $-\text{CO-}$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{CO})\text{-}$, $-\text{SO-}$,

$-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO})\text{-}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO}_2)\text{-}$, $-\text{COO-}$, $-\text{OCO-}$, $-\text{OCO-O-}$,

$-\text{S-CO-}$, $-\text{CO-S-}$, $-\text{SOO-}$, $-\text{OSO-}$, $-\text{SOS-}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{-}$,

$-\text{CH}_2\text{O-}$, $-\text{CH=CH-}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C-}$, or a single bond,

t is an integer having a value of 0 or 1.

9. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to and 8, wherein at least one of A^1 to A^4 of formula (I) is a group of formula (II):

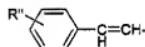
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P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO- or



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl, Br or I,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

Sp is a C₁₋₂₂ branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH(OH)-, -SO₂-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-,

-CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -(CF₂)_r-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

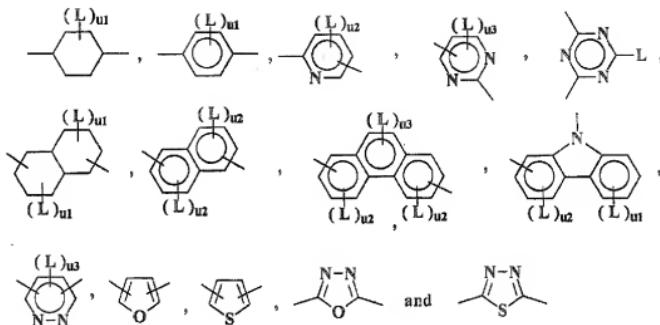
k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

10. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 9 and 8, wherein C¹ to C⁴ are preferably selected from:

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wherein:

L is -CH₃, -COCH₃, -NO₂, -CN or halogen,

u1 is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4,

u2 is 0, 1, 2, or 3,

u3 is 0, 1, or 2.

11. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 10 and 8, wherein:

C¹ to C⁴ are selected from optionally substituted cyclohexyl or cyclohexylene, phenyl or phenylene, naphthyl or naphthylene or phenanthryl or phenanthrylene,

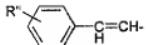
A^1 to A^4 independently from each other is hydrogen, a polar group such as cyano, nitro, a halogen, or a group of formula (II)

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

$\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO-}$ or



wherein:

W is H, CH_3 , F, Cl Br or I.

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R" is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy,

cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is a C₁₋₂₂ branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH(OH)-, -SO₂-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -(CF₂)_r-,

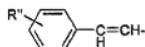
with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

with the proviso that at least one of A¹ to A⁴ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO- or



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl, Br or I,

R" is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

12. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 11 and 8, wherein:

A¹ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A² has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t- (II)

in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O-}$ or $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO-}$,
wherein:
W is H or CH_3 ,
Sp is a branched $\text{C}_3\text{-}\text{C}_{16}$ alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight $\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_{16}$
alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy
group, wherein one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced,
independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, with the proviso that
no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,
k is 1,
X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond,
more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$ or a single bond,
t is 1
A⁴ is hydrogen.

13. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to 12 and 8, wherein:

A¹ has the meaning of formula (II),

$\text{P}-(\text{Sp})_k-(\text{X})_t-$ (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O-}$ or $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO-}$,
wherein:
W is H or CH_3 ,
Sp is a branched $\text{C}_3\text{-}\text{C}_{16}$ alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or group, or is a straight $\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_{16}$ alkylene group,
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more
 $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or

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more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A² comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

14. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 13 and 8, wherein:

A¹ has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₅-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally

comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

15. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 14 and 8, wherein:

A² has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t- (II)

in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally

comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a

single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A^4 is hydrogen.

16. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 15 and 8, wherein:

A^1 and A^2 have the meaning of formula (II),

$P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t -$ (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

$CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=CW-O-$ or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched C_3-C_{16} alkylene group, optionally

comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C_2-C_{16}

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more $-CH_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-O-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is $-O-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, or a

single bond, more preferably $-O-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$ or a single bond,

t is 1,

A^3 comprises a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$,

$CH_2=CW-O-$, or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

A^4 is hydrogen.

17. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 16 and 8, wherein at least one of A^1 to A^3 has the meaning of formula (II),

$P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t -$ (II)

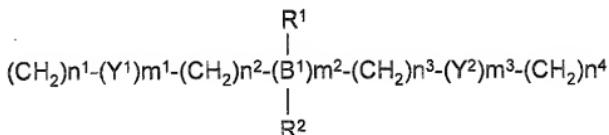
wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$,
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO-}$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent $-\text{OCO}-$ or $-\text{COO}-$.

B¹ represents C or CH.

R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen or

a C₁-C₁₂ alkyl residue, preferably a

C₁-C₆ alkyl residue, such as a methyl

ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl or isopropyl residue

n_1, n_2, n_3 and n_4 are independently integers from 0

to 15, such that $0 \leq n1 + n2 + n3 + n4 \leq 15$

m_1 , m_2 and m_3 are independently integers from 0 to 3, such that

$1 \leq m1 + m2 + m3 \leq 3$ and wherein:

one or more CH_2- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain.

cf.(III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups

selected from Ω — $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ or $\text{C}=\text{C}$

with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y^1 or Y^2 .

$k = 1$

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X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

18. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to 17 and 8, wherein at least one of A¹ to A³ has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

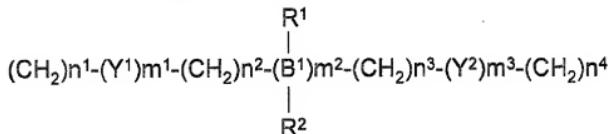
P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-,

CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y¹ and Y² each independently represent -OCO- or -COO-,

B¹ represents C or CH,

R¹ is hydrogen

R² represents a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl group and most preferably a methyl or ethyl group,

n1, n2, n3 and n4 are independently integers from 0 to 15,

such that 0 ≤ n1 + n2 + n3 + n4 ≤ 15,

m1, m2 and m3 are independently integers from 0 to 3,

such that 1 ≤ m1 + m2 + m3 ≤ 3, and wherein:

one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain of (III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH- or -C≡C-,

with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y¹ or Y²,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

19. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 comprising further agents, such as cross-linking agents, stabilizing agents, initiators, dyes, other chiral or achiral additives and plasticizers.

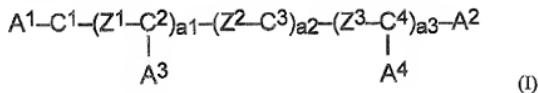
20. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1 in form of an elastomer, polymer gel, polymer network or polymer film.

21. (original): A chiral or achiral rod shaped compound, wherein said compound has a rigid core and comprises at least two fused or linked, optionally substituted, non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, and also comprises at least one optionally substituted alkyl residue, and also comprises at least one polymerizable group and has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 40 °C or lower.

22. (original): A compound according to claim 21, wherein the compound has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 20 °C or lower.

23. (currently amended): A compound according to one of claims 21 to and 22, wherein the compound has transition temperature to the isotropic state of 0 °C or lower.

24. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 21 to ~~23 and 22~~ of formula (I):



wherein:

A^1 to A^4 are independently from each other hydrogen, a polar group such as nitro, cyano, a halogen, an optionally substituted methyl group, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group of 2 to 40 C-atoms, in which one or more C-atoms may be replaced by a heteroatom, in such a way that oxygen atoms are not linked to one another,

with the proviso that at least one of A^1 to A^4 comprises a polymerizable group,

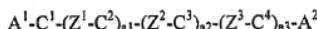
Z^1 to Z^3 are independently from each other optionally substituted non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, preferably connected to each other at the opposite positions via the bridging groups Z^1 to Z^3 ,

Z^1 to Z^3 are independently from each other -CH(OH)-, -CO-, -CH₂(CO)-, -SO-, -CH₂(SO)-, -SO₂-, -CH₂(SO₂)-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CO CF₂-, -CF₂CO-, -S-CO-, -CO-S-, -SOO-, -OSO-, -SOS-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH=C H-, -C≡C-, -CH=CH-COO-, -OCO-CH=CH-, -CH=N-, -C(CH₃)=N-, -N=N- or a single covalent bond,

$a1$, $a2$ and $a3$ are independently from each other integers from 0 to 3, such that

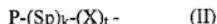
$$1 \leq a1 + a2 + a3 \leq 3,$$

with the proviso that the sequence:



describes the long molecular axis of the rod shaped additive components.

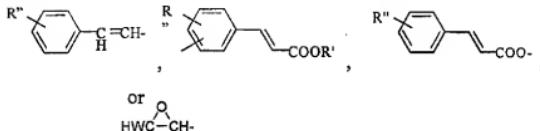
25. (original): A compound according to claim 24, wherein at least one of A^1 to A^4 includes a polymerizable group, selected from a residue of formula (II):



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group selected from groups comprising CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-, CH₂=C(Ph)-COO-, CH₂=CH-COO-Ph-,

CH₂=CW-CO-NH-, CH₂=C(Ph)-CONH-, CH₂=C(COOR')-CH₂-COO-, CH₂=CH-OOC-,
(Ph)-CH=CH-, CH₃-CH=N-(CH₂)_{m1}-, HO-, HS-, HO-(CH₂)_{m1}-, HS-(CH₂)_{m1}-,
HO(CH₂)_{m1}COO-, HS(CH₂)_{m1}COO-, HWN-, HOC(O)-, CH₂=CH-Ph-(O)_{m2},



wherein:

W is H, F, Cl, Br or I or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

m1 is an integer having a value of from 1 to 9,

m2 is an integer having a value of 0 or 1,

R' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₃₀ alkylene group, in which one or more -CH₂- groups may be replaced by a heteroatom and/or by a polar group and/or it is optionally possible that one or more carbon-carbon single bond(s) is/are replaced by a carbon-carbon double or a triple bond,

k is an integer having a value of from 0 to 4,

X is -O-, -S-, -NH-, -N(CH₃)-, -CH(OH)-, -CO-, -CH₂(CO)-, -SO-,

-CH₂(SO)-, -SO₂-, -CH₂(SO₂)-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-,

-S-CO-, -CO-S-, -SOO-, -OSO-, -SOS-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -OCH₂-,

-CH₂O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond,

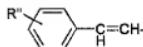
t is an integer having a value of 0 or 1.

26. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 or 25 claim 24, wherein at least one of A¹ to A⁴ of formula (I) is a group of formula (II):

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is a polymerizable group such as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O-}$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO-}$ or



wherein:

W is H , CH_3 , F , Cl , Br or I ,

R'' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F , Cl , Br or I .

Sp is a C_{1-22} branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{OCO-O-}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH-}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C-}$, $-(\text{CF}_2)_r-$,

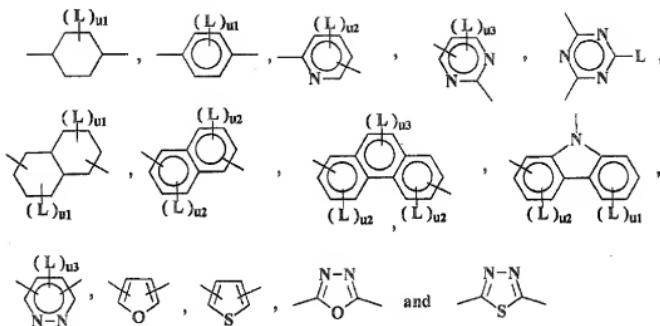
with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH-}$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C-}$, or a single bond, more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO-}$ or a single bond,

t is 1.

27. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 26 claim 24, wherein C^1 to C^4 are preferably selected from:



wherein:

L being -CH₃, -COCH₃, -NO₂, -CN or halogen,

ul is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4,

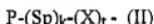
u2 is 0, 1, 2, or 3,

u3 is 0, 1, or 2.

28. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 24 to 27 claim 24, wherein:

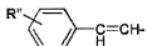
C^1 to C^4 are selected from optionally substituted cyclohexyl or cyclohexylene, phenyl or phenylene, naphthyl or naphthylene or phenanthryl or phenanthrylene,

A^1 to A^4 independently from each other is hydrogen, a polar group such as cyano, nitro, a halogen, or a group of formula (II).



in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl Br or I,
R" is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy,
cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is a C₁₋₂₂ branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH(OH)-, -SO₂-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -(CF₂)_r-,

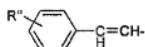
with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or single bond,

t is 1,

with the proviso that at least one of A1 to A4 comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO- or



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl, Br or I,

R" is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

29. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 28 claim 24, wherein:

A¹ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A² has the meaning of formula (II),

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P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆ alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond,

more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1

A⁴ is hydrogen.

30. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 29 claim 24,
wherein:

A¹ has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

CH₂=CW-, CH₂=W-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a

single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A² comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

31. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 30 claim 24, wherein:

A¹ has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=W-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆ alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

32. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 31 claim 24, wherein:

A² has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆ alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A^3 comprises a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$,
 $CH_2=CW-O-$, or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,
wherein:
W is H or CH_3 ,
 A^4 is hydrogen.

33. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 32 claim 24,
wherein:

A^1 and A^2 have the meaning of formula (II),

$P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t-$ (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
 $CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=CW-O-$ or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,
wherein:
W is H or CH_3 ,
Sp is a branched C_3-C_{16} alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C_2-C_{16}
alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group,
wherein one or more $-CH_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced,
independently, by one or more groups selected from $-O-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, with the proviso that
no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is $-O-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, or a
single bond, more preferably $-O-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$ or a single bond,

t is 1,

A^3 comprises a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$,
 $CH_2=CW-O-$, or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,
wherein:
W is H or CH_3 ,

A^4 is hydrogen.

34. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 33 claim 24,
wherein at least one of A^1 to A^3 has the meaning of formula (II),

$P-(Sp)_k-(X)_l-$ (II)

wherein:

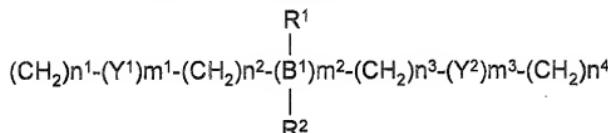
P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

$CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=CW-O-$, $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent $-OCO-$ or $-COO-$,

B^1 represents C or CH,

R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen or a
C₁-C₁₂ alkyl residue, preferably a C₁-C₆ alkyl

residue, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl or isopropyl residue,
n1, n2, n3 and n4 are independently integers from 0 to 15, such

that $0 \leq n^1 + n^2 + n^3 + n^4 \leq 15$,

m^1, m^2 and m^3 are independently integers from 0 to 3, such that

$1 \leq m^1 + m^2 + m^3 \leq 3$ and

wherein

one or more - CH_2 - groups present in the hydrocarbon chain of (III) may be
replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH- or -C≡C-,

with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y¹ or Y²,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

35. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 24 to 34 claim 24, wherein at least one of A¹ to A³ has the meaning of formula (II),

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t (II)

wherein:

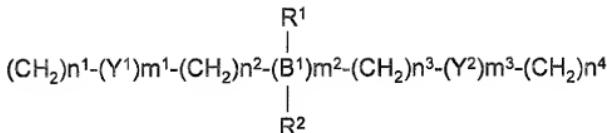
P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y¹ and Y² each independently represent -OCO- or -COO-,

B¹ represents C or CH,

R¹ is hydrogen,

R² represents a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl group and most preferably a methyl or ethyl group,

n₁, n₂, n₃ and n₄ are independently integers from 0 to 15, such that 0 ≤ n₁

+ n₂ + n₃ + n₄ ≤ 15,

m_1, m_2 and m_3 are independently integers from 0 to 3, such that $\leq m_1 + m_2 + m_3 \leq 3$, and wherein

one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain of (III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$,

with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y^1 or Y^2 ,

k is 1,

X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond, more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$ or a single bond,

t is 1.

36. (currently amended): Use of a chiral or achiral rod shaped compound according to any one of claims 21 to 35 claim 21 for the preparation of mesogenic polymer mixtures according to any one of claims 1 to 20 claim 1.

37. (currently amended): Polymer networks prepared from a mixture according to any one of claims 1 to 20 claim 1.

38. (currently amended): Liquid crystalline polymer films prepared from a mixture according to any one of claims 1 to 20 claim 1.

39. (original): Use of a polymer network according to claim 37 or a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38 for the preparation of unstructured or structured optical and electro-optical components and multilayer systems.

40. (currently amended): Use of a mixture according to any one of claims 1 to 20 claim 1 for the preparation of an elastomer, polymer gel, polymer network or polymer film.

41. (currently amended): Use of a polymer network according to claim 37 or of a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38 for the manufacture of devices such as waveguides, optical gratings, filters, retarders, polarizers, piezoelectric cells or thin film exhibiting non-linear optical properties.

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42. (currently amended): Optical or electro-optical components comprising a polymer network according to claim 37 ~~or a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38.~~

43. (new): Use of a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38 for the manufacture of devices such as waveguides, optical gratings, filters, retarders, polarizers, piezoelectric cells or thin film exhibiting non-linear optical properties.

44. (new): Optical or electro-optical components comprising a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38.